WASHINGTON'S HOME LIFE.

Interesting Letters About It Never Before Published.

RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD MOUNT YERNON.

Now the Great Virginian Lived, Moved and Had His Being Over One Hundred Years Ago_His Home Described.

Mr. Evan Powell, of Llanidloes, Wales, recently sent Rev. James B. Funsten, of this city, the following letters, which are copies of two interesting communications written from Mount Vernon over one hundred years ago. describing in graphic words Washington in his home life. The letters have never before been published. They were written by Major Hunter, an English officer. The first is as

ALEXANDRIA, VA., WEDNESDAY, 16TR OF NOVEMBER, 1785. After breakfast I waited on Colonel Fitzgerald. A fire that had broke out in the town
hindered us from getting off so soon as we intended. However, after some trouble it was
extinguished, and at 11:30 we left Alexandria
with Mr. Lee, the president of Congress, his
son and the servants. You have a fine view
of the Potomac till you enter a wood. A small of the Potomac till you enter a wood. A small rivulet here divides the General's estate from the neighboring farmers. His seat breaks out beautifully upon you when you little expect. heantfully upon you when you little expect, being situated upon a most elegant rising ground on the banks of the Potomac, ten miles from Alexandria. We arrived at Mount Vernon by one o'clock, so-called by the General's eldest brother, who lived there before him, after the admiral of that name. When Colonel Fitzgerald introduced me to the General I was struck with his noble and venerable appearance. It immediately brought to my mind the great part he had acted in the late war. The General is about six foot high, perfectly straight and well made: rather inclined to be lusty. His eyes are full and blue, and seem to express an air of gravity. His nose inclines to the aquiline, his mouth small, his teeth are yet good, and his cheeks indicate perfect health. His the aquiline, his mouth small, his teeth are yet good, and his cheeks indicate perfect health. His forehead is a noble one, and he wears his hair turned back without curls, and quite in the officer's style and tied in a long queue behind. Although he makes a most noble respectable appearance, and I really think him the first man in the world. After having had the management and care of the whole continental army, he has now retired without receiving any pay for his trouble, and though solicited by the King of France and some of the first characters in the world to visit Europe, he has denied them all and knows how to prefer solid happiness in his retirement to all the luxures and fattering speeches of European courts. The General was born and educated near Fred-

fastering speeches of European courts. The General was born and educated near Fred-ericksburg on the Rappahannock. He must be a man of great abilities and a strong natural genius, as his master never taught him anything but writing and arithmetic. People come to see him here from all parts of the world—hardly a day passes without—but the General seldom makes his appearance be-fore dinner employing the morning to write fore dinner, employing the morning to write his letters and superintend his rarm, and alloting the alternoon to company; but even then he generally retires for two hours be-tween tea and supper to his study to write. He is one of the most regular men in the He is one of the most regular men in the world. When no particular company is at his house he goes to bed always at and gets up with the sun. It's astonishing the packets of letters that daily come for him from all parts of the world, which employ him most of the morning to answer and his secretary. Mr. Shaw (an acquaintance of mine), to copy and arrange. The General has all the accounts of the war yet to settle. Shaw tells me he keeps as regular books as any merchant whatever, and a daily journal of all his transactions. It's amazing the number of letters he wrote during the war. There are "thirty large folio volumes of them upstairs, as big as common ledgers, all nearly copied. The General is remarked for writing a most elevant letter. Like the famous Addison, his writing excels his speaking. But to finish this long digression. When I was first introduced to him he was nearly dressed in a plain-blue coat, white cassimir waistcoat and black breeches and boots, as he came from his farm, who mently dressed in a plain-blue coat, white cassimir waistcoat and black breeches and boots, as he came from his farm. breeches and boots, as he came from his farm.

After having sit with us some time he retired and sent in his lady, a most agreeable woman about fifty, and Major Washington, his nephew, married about three weeks ago to a Miss Besset. She is Mrs. Washington's niece, and a most chairming young woman. She is about nineteen. After chatting with them for half an hour, the General came in again with his hair neatly powdered, a clean shirt on, a new plaindrab coat, white waistoon and white silk stockings. At three dinner was on table, and we were shown by the General into another room, where everything was set off with a peculiar taste and at the same time very neat and breeches and boots, as he came from his farm taste and at the same time very neat and plain. The General sent the bottle about pretty freely after dinner and gave success to the navigation of the Potomae for his toasts, which he has very much at heart and when finished will, Lauppose, be the first river in finished will, I suppose, he the first river in the world. He, never undertakes anything without having first well considered of it and consulted different people, but when once he has begun anything no obstacle or difficulty can come in his way but what he is determined to surmount. The General's character seems to be a prudent but a very persevering one. He is quite pleased at the idea of the Raltimore merchants laughing at him and saying it was a ridiculous plan and would never succeed. They begin now says the General, to look a little schools about the matter, as they know it must hurt their comter, as they know it must hurt their com-

merce amazingly.

The Colonel and I had our horses ready after dinner to return to Alexandria, and not withstanding all we could do the General absolutely insisted upon our staying on account of the bad afternoon. We therefore complied although it was fully my intention to have set off either to Fredericksburg in my way to Mr. McCall's in the stage, if the morning was fine and if not, most certainly back ing was fine, and if not, most certainly back again to Baltimore, as I could not refuse the pressing and kind invitation of so great a General. Though our greatest enemy ladmire him as superior even to the Roman heroes

themselves.

After tea General Washington retired to his study and left us with the President, his lady and the rest of the company. If he had not been anxious to hear the news of Congress from Mr. Lee, most probably he would not have returned to supper, but gone to bed at his usual hour, 3 o'clock, for he seldom makes any ceremony. We had a very elegant supper about that time. The General with a few glasses of champagne got quite merry, and being with his intimate friends haughed and talked a good deal. Before strangers he is generally very reserved, and seldom says a word. I was fortunate in being in his company with his particular aconaintances.

I'm told during the war he was never seen to smile. The care, indeed, of such an army was almost enough to make anybody thoughtful and grave. No man but the General could have kept the army together without victuals or clothes, they placed a confidence in him that they would have had in no other person. His being a man of great fortune and naving no children showed them it was quite a disinterested part that he was acting with regard to money-making, and that he had only the good of his country at heart. The soldiers, though starving at times, in a manner adored him.

We had a great deal of conversation about

we had a great deal of conversation about the slippery ground (as the General said) that Franklin was on, and also about Congress, the Potomac, improving their roads, etc. At 12 I had the honor of being lighted up to my bed by the General himself.

The Second Letter. The second letter is as follows:

STATE OF VIRGINIA, GENERAL WASHINGTON'S, MOUNT VERNON, Thursday, 17th Nov. 1785. I rose early and took a walk about the General's grounds, which are really beautifully laid out. He has about 4,000 acres well cultilaid out. He has about 4,000 acres well cultivated, and superintends the whole himself. Indeed, his greatest pride now is to be thought the first farmer in America. He is quite a Cincinnatus, and often works with his men himself: strips off his coat and labors like a common man. The General has a great turn for mechanics. It's astenishing with what niceness he directs everything in the building way, considering even to measure the things himself that all may be perfectly uniform. The style of his house is very elegant, something like the Prince de Conde's at Chantille, near Paris, only not quite'so large; but it's a pity he did not build a new one at once, as it has

cost him near as much repairing his old one. His improvements, I am told, are very great within the last year. He is making a most delightful bowling green before the house and cutting a new road through the woods to Alexandria. It would be endless to attempt describing his house and grounds: I must content myself with having seen them. The situation is a heavenly one; upon one of the finest rivers in the world. I suppose I saw thousands of wild ducks upon it, all within gunshot. There are also plenty of blackbirds and wild geese and turkeys. After breakfast I went, with Shaw to see his famous race-horse Magnolia, a most beautiful creature. A whole length of him was taken a little while ago (mounted on Magnolia) by a famous man from Europe, in copper, and his bust in marble, one by order of Congress to be kept wherever they sit, and

copper, and his bust in marble, one by order of Congress to be kept wherever they sit, and the other by the State of Virginia, to stand in the House of Assembly. They will cost about 6,000 sterling. Shaw says. He also showed me an elegant State carriage, with beautiful emblematical figures on it, made him a present of by the State of Pennsylvania. Isfterwards went into his stables, where among an amazing number of horses, I caw old Nelson, now thirty-two years of age, that carried the General almost always during the war. Blueskin. eral almost always during the war. Blueskin, another fine old horse next to him, now and then had that honor. Shaw also showed me his old servant, that was reported to have been taken with a number of the General's papers about him. The have heard the roarpapers about him. The have heard the roaring of many a cannon in their time. Blueskin was not the favorite, on account of his not standing fire so well as venerable old Nelson. The General makes no manner of use of them now; he keeps them in a nice stable where they feed away at their ease for their past services. There is a horse of Major Washington's there that was reckoned the finest figure in the American army. It's astonishing what a number of small houses the General has upon his estate for his different workmen and negroes to live in. He has everything within himself, carpenters, bricklayers, brewers, blacksmiths, of his family and servants.

When the General takes his coach out he when the General takes his coach out he always drives six horses; to the chariot he only puts four. The General has some fine deer, which he is going to enclose a park for, also some remarkable large fex hounds, made him a present of from England, as he is fond of hunting, and there are great plenty of foxes in this country.

Ligarcat to mention Mrs. Washington's sweet

I forgot to mention Mrs. Washington's sweet

foxes in this country.

I forgot to mention Mrs. Washington's sweet little grandchildren, who imagine will come in for a share of the General's fortune with the Major. I fancy he is worth 100,000 pounds sterling, and lives at the rate of £3,000 or £4,000 a year; always keeping a genteel table for strangers that almost daily visit him, as a thing of course. There is a fine family picture in the drawing-room of the Marquis de La Fayette, his lady and three children, another of the General with his marching orders, when he was Colonel Washington in the British army, against the French in the last war, and two of Mrs. Washington is children (ther son was reckoned one of the handsomest men living halso a picture of Mrs. Washington when a young woman.

The General has some hundreds of negroes on his plantations. He chiefly grows Indian corn, wheat and tobacco.

It is astonishing with what raptures Mrs. Washington spake about the discipline of the army, the excellent order they werein, superior to any troops, she said, upon the face of the earth toward the close of the war. even the English acknowledged it, she said. What pleasure she took in the sound of the fifes and drms, preferring it to any music that was ever heard, and then to see them reviewed a week or two before the men were disbanded, when they were all well clothed, was, she said, a most neavenly sight. Almost every soldier shed tears at parting with the General when the army was dislanded. Mrs. Washington said it was a melancholy sight. The situation of Mount Vernon is, by nature, one of the sweetest in the world, and what makes it still more pleasing is the amazing number of sloops that are constantly sailing up and down the river. Indeed, all the ships that come to Alexandria or Georgetown must sail by the General's house.

At 11 we took leave of him, I shook him leavily in the behad and wished him all hap-

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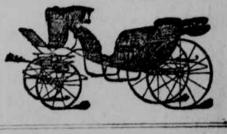
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